



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request;

Departmental Offices (DO) Information Collection Request

AGENCY: Departmental Offices, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on revisions to an existing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The Office of the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, within the Department of the Treasury, is soliciting comments concerning the application, reports, and recordkeeping for the Direct Component and the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Programs under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). The information collection for which comments are solicited are already a part of the approved collection for RESTORE Act grants, including the two BABAA Waiver Request Forms, which implement the Build America, Buy America Act (“BABAA”).

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION date in the FEDERAL REGISTER]** to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, by electronic mail to restoreact@treasury.gov in the Office of Gulf Coast Restoration.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Departmental Offices (DO)

Title: Application, Reports, and Recordkeeping for the Direct Component and the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program under the RESTORE Act.

OMB Control Number: 1505-0250.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Description: The Department of the Treasury administers the Direct Component and the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program authorized under the RESTORE Act. Treasury awards grants for these two programs from proceeds in connection with administrative and civil penalties paid after July 6, 2012, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and deposited into the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. Direct Component grants are awarded to the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and 23 Florida counties and 20 Louisiana parishes. Centers of Excellence grants are awarded to the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The information collection for both programs identifies the eligible recipients; describes proposed activities; determines an appropriate amount of funding; ensures compliance with the RESTORE Act, Treasury's regulations, and Federal laws and policies on grants; tracks grantee progress; and reports on the effectiveness of the programs.

Section 70914(a) of BABAA prohibits Direct Component recipients (and subrecipients, as applicable) from using RESTORE Act funds to purchase foreign-sourced iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials unless Treasury approves a waiver pursuant to section 70914(b) of BABAA. On January 13, 2023, Treasury received emergency clearance from OMB to update the approved collection and add two new forms for recipients to submit requests to waive the new domestic preference requirements under BABAA. Treasury requested an emergency clearance for the forms to be completed by January 13, 2022, which was the expiration date of Treasury OGCR's six-month general applicability public interest adjustment period waiver and therefore was the effective date of BABAA requirements for RESTORE Act Direct Component program. The Agency was delayed in requesting the clearance from OIRA because the required waiver information that must be collected by agencies for cross-posting waivers to the GSA-managed Made in America Office (MIAO) website was finalized on

December 8, 2022. Posting waivers on the centralized waiver transparency website is a requirement for federal agencies to be compliant with the implementation of BABAA. Treasury now seeks clearance through the normal 60-day public comment process for clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of the updated information collection as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d).

Treasury has also made substantive changes to the Multiyear Implementation Plan Narrative Form through a consolidation of application questions to reduce requests for duplicative information and revised the requirements of the Milestones and Measures Application Form, Milestones Report and Status of Performance Report that reduces the burden on the applicant to demonstrate progress made to achieve the scope of work. No other changes to the information collection are proposed by Treasury at this time.

The revised application forms and supplemental information may be obtained on Treasury's RESTORE Act website at <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-markets-financial-institutions-and-fiscal-service/restore-act>.

Form Number: None.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 52.

Frequency of Response: On Occasion.

Estimated Total Number of Annual Responses: 563.

Estimated Time per Response: 11.2 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 6,310.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of

the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services required to provide information.

Pub. L. No. 117-58, sec. 70901-52 included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”), Pub. L. No. 117-58 that was signed into law on November 15, 2021.

***Authority:** 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.*

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[FR Doc. 2023-09256 Filed: 5/1/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/2/2023]